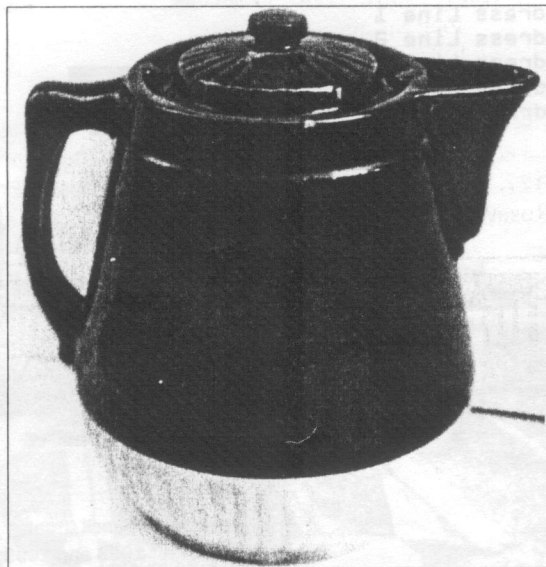


# Pace Brothers Pottery



By James L. Murphy

Following the success of Lyman Lowry's cooking ware (see *Roseville Legend, Volume 1, No. 4*), many other Roseville potters attempted to emulate him. All of this earthenware cookware looked pretty much alike at first glance, tan, low-fired earthenware stewpots, pie pans, and coffeepots. Although minor differences of style and different brand names distinguished these products, today many of the marks are ambiguous, and many of the pieces were not marked at all.

Recently, a rare example of a signed Pace Brothers coffeepot was acquired on an ebay on-line auction. It is clearly impress "PACE BROS" on the base or would otherwise be unattributed. Perhaps the most distinguishing design elements are the relatively flat, ribbed lid, with matching ribs on the lower part of the pot.

The Pace Brothers Pottery was a one-kiln affair located just north of Second Street, behind the Lutheran Church, and just south of the C.W. Lowry Pottery. Pace Brothers is listed in the 1885 and 1887 Roseville directories. The 1895 Sanborn fire insurance map shows that it had only one kiln. The Ohio factory inspectors report of the same years indicates that it made cooking ware in a two-story frame building and employed five males and one minor. In 1897 it was employing six



workers and in 1901, eight. The pottery had closed by 1918 and was later the site of the National Pottery Co., which continued to make tan-colored cooking ware on a fairly large scale.

It is believed that the Pace Brothers were Leroy and Luther Pace, sons of Orange W. Pace. Orange Pace is listed in the 1870 census as 46 years old, with Leroy 16 and Luther 12, both boys already working in potter's shops. The future Pace Brothers Pottery is shown on the 1880 Sanborn fire insurance map as operated by "L. Pace," presumably the elder brother, Leroy. As early as the 1866 atlas, O. W. Pace is listed as "Dry Goods, Groceries, and Manufacturer of Stone Potter Ware," with his house and store shown on Main Street. Presumably the pottery was the same, later operated by his sons.

George W. Pace, believed to be a brother of Luther C. and Leroy Pace, sold parts of Lots 14, 15, and 16 to Luther C. Pace, Jr., et al. in 1904, and for a while the pottery appears to have been known as Pace Brothers & Son. In 1919 the land was sold to the Continental Pottery Co., which in turn sold it to James L. Weaver in 1922 (Muskingum Co. Deeds 196:3). James L. Weaver, Jr., and wife Josie then sold Lots 14 and 15 to the National Pottery on December 12, 11, 1925, the pottery being owned by Weaver (60%) and J. Burgess Lenhart (40%).

This enterprise should not be confused with the Baldoser and Pace pottery, which was located along the eastside of the Pennsylvania Railroad, north of First Street. Although pottery historian John Ramsay says it was operating ca. 1875, that company actually as not organized until 1904, with E. A. Baldoser, his father-in-law, George W. Pace, and George's son, O. F. Pace. Apparently this pottery was organized at the same time that George W. sold his part of the Pace Brothers Pottery to Luther C. Pace, Jr., et al. No examples of the work of Baldoser and Pace's ware are currently known, although several designs are illustrated in the 1906 Roseville promotional booklet. •